



Report to the Auburn City Council

Action Item

Agenda Item No.

City Manager's Approval

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: City Councilor Holmes
Prepared by: Amy M. Lind, Deputy/Assistant City Clerk
Date: October 10, 2011
Subject: Certified Local Government Status (CLG) For Auburn

The Issue

Should the City of Auburn apply for Certified Local Government status?

Conclusion and Recommendation

By MOTION, approve moving forward with volunteer and staff assistance in seeking Certified Local Government status for the City of Auburn.

Background

The Auburn area has a long history of pre-European and Gold Rush era settlement dating to the 1840's. Visitors to this area frequently use the terms "charming", "don't change a thing" and "historic" when referring to Auburn. A recent survey determined that 94% of residents believe that "preserving Auburn's historical character" was very or somewhat important to them. Over the past few months Auburn has had six additional buildings nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. Old Town Auburn is already designated a Historic District and the Carnegie Library was approved earlier this year. Work on these nominations was largely that of volunteers who are passionate about historic preservation. We expect one more building to be nominated for the National Register later this month. I firmly believe that the more we celebrate our history, the more economic vitality is increased.

One method of demonstrating our commitment to preservation of our historic character is to become a Certified Local Government (CLG). The CLG program is a partnership between local, state and national governments focused on promoting historical preservation at the local level. (See attachment A). The basic requirements for certification are outlined in attachment B. Many of these requirements are already satisfied, but a review of our current historic preservation ordinance may be necessary.

CLG status makes the city eligible for Preserve America grant funds. Currently Weaverville and San Juan Bautista are certified. Both have a much smaller population than Auburn. Weaverville recently received a grant for over \$28K to develop a marketing plan to promote local heritage festivals and wayfinding signage. Sausalito, another relatively small community, recently received CLG status.

Fiscal Impacts

Most of the work would be completed by volunteers along with the city historian. Staff time would be minimal over a period of several years.

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Certified Local Government Program

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

Announcements:

The Certified Local Government Program is a preservation partnership between local, state and national governments focused on promoting historic preservation at the grass roots level. The program is jointly administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) in each state, with each local community working through a certification process to become recognized as a Certified Local Government (CLG). CLGs then become an active partner in the Federal Historic Preservation Program and the opportunities it provides.

Why become a CLG? There are many reasons that are described in depth in the links provided, but the key reason is the access certification provides to the expert technical advice of the State Offices as well as the NPS. Partnerships with the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, Preserve America, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the National Main Street Center are also networks that CLGs have an opportunity to tap into. Of course, access to Federal funding is another benefit, making certified communities able to access the portion of Federal funds set aside by each SHPO for just CLGs annually. Being a CLG also shows your community's commitment to keeping what is significant from the past for future generations. As a certified town, city, or county seeking other opportunities, it becomes easy to demonstrate a readiness to take on a preservation project and be successful.

Lori Sipes was trained in a Michigan CLG window workshop. Now she is training others how to rehab their historic windows. View pictures and listen to a radio interview here .

Please help the National Park Service gather information on the annual accomplishments of our local government partners. Unless your State's CLG program coordinator has informed your official CLG contact person to the contrary, click here to download the forms and guidance, fill out the form(s), and return to NPS via mail or fax according to the guidelines. If you are not sure if your community is a CLG or who your CLG contact person is, please click on CLG Contacts & Statistics.

Tell NPS about your Success!

The Historic Preservation Grants Division would like to hear from you, the grantees! Please email us with highlights, awards, success stories created by NPS funded grant programs. Did you experience increased visitation, neighborhood revitalization, economic development, or job creation because of the grant funding?

Send your stories to preservation_grants_info@nps.gov and they might be featured on our Best Ideas page. Please include photos! We look forward to hearing from you!

Participation is voluntary.

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